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HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND ITS TROUBLES.

The brilliant Mr. P. S. Twister has sent us a letter, courteous in tone and argumentative in details. We did not intend to publish it, but as he has seen fit to request us so to do, we are of the opinion that it is right and proper that we should make comments in the premises and emphasize our position in the light of the facts admittedly true by both parties to the controversy. Mr. Twister writes as follows:

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23, 1905.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:—

I have just read your editorial on Howard University. And in part have to agree with you. But I desire to call your attention to the error you have made by saying the students were mistaken in the revolt of December 8th. The students were forced to resort to the revolt to disprove a falsehood told by Dr. Gordon to the investigating committee. The day before the revolt Dr. Gordon appeared before the committee and said that the students all liked him and would cry if he would leave the institution. When the students heard this they planned to disprove it by an open demonstration. And on the 8th of December, at the Chapel service, the students arose, hissed Dr. Gordon and marched out of the Chapel. I have stated just what happened. I was present and know whereof I speak. I will state that the students have not apologized, have no one to whom to make an apology. They, in a dignified way, gave the lie to Gordon, for which all true men should thank them.

You say that Howard University needs a man with executive capacity rather than a man who has the proper qualities of mind and heart. In this you are mistaken. Gordon's shortcomings are due to lack of capacity of mind and heart, to which may be added his utter lack of executive ability. What we need in Howard University to-day is a man of superior intellectual powers, moral excellence, and above all, one who believes in the equality of man as man looking toward the highest moral, spiritual and intellectual development within the gift of genius.

Howard University is the great beacon light to the man in black, and whatever threatens her should appeal to the highest and best there is in every true Negro American, and spur him on to make every effort to save her from destruction.

I will thank you if you will publish this letter.

Very sincerely,

P. S. TWISTER.

Before discussing the subject further, it would be well to consider the phase of the situation criticised. The Washington, D. C. Post, in its issue of the 9th inst. said:

"As Dr. Gordon came in to open the exercises, he was greeted by hissing, cat-calls, howls and groans, as such only Negro students, 700 strong could give vent to, the

Gordon exhibited a determination to hold his ground and a scene of wild excitement followed, in which it is said school-books were hurled close to the president's head. There was excitement for several minutes, when the students, moved by common impulse, marched out of the chapel, hooting and singing songs."

These facts were published in the same issue of the PLANET in which appeared the editorial comment that Mr. Twister criticizes. We presume then that he accepts the statements as true.

It may be well to state here that we are opposed to Dr. John Gordon and we believe that a mistake was made in placing in charge of Howard University, a gentleman who knew at the time and who has found out since that the surroundings were unpropitious to him. He is opposed to the higher education of the Negro and Howard University was not intended to be an industrial school. Students seeking that kind of education should attend Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Tuskegee Institute or our own state institution at Petersburg.

We can understand too how people who on the ground, swayed by the impulses of passion can attempt to justify such outrageous conduct. But there are colored men elsewhere who will not stand for such a species of lawlessness. Mr. Twister is in error when he states that we are of the opinion that the students were mistaken in the revolt of December 8th, 1905. We think the method was all right, but that the manner of execution was all wrong.

Organized protest against outrage or tyranny can always be justified, but when the methods of the mob are countenanced and practiced the students will have against them the united opposition of every conservative man of color in the United States. Lawlessness and mobocracy are two-edged swords that cut both ways. We stated that qualification and adaptability were the characteristics most needed in a president of an institution of the kind referred to and that executive ability was more essential than scholastic training.

We are of that opinion now. We do not mean to infer that a man without scholastic training could succeed, but we mean that of the two qualifications, executive ability should be predominant. We believe that the universal opinion of those men in this country regardless of color, who are qualified to judge will side with us in this statement of the case. Learned professors and educational geniuses are often the poorest presiding officers both in church and state. They are so wrapped up in the cocoons of their own wisdom that they can see naught else and their horizon is limited.

We beg leave to state that there are many brilliant exceptions. Mr. Twister's assertion that "Howard University is the great beacon light of liberty to the man in black, and whatever threatens her should appeal to the highest and best there is in every true Negro American and spur him on to make every effort to save her from destruction" justifies all that we have said and emphasizes the necessity for a race journal of the PLANET's kind to state its disapproval of all methods that bring shame upon the institution and disgrace upon the students participating in such a discreditable war-fare.

Before leaving this phase of the discussion, it may be well to observe that the treachery of some kind of Negroes is proverbial. It was one of the legacies handed down from slavery. Who knows but what some of these kind of citizens of color did tell and lead Doctor Gordon to believe that they and more like them would cry if he should leave? Who knows but what they impressed upon him the fact that the opposition to him was promoted and backed up by a small number of agitators?

"They benched the supple hinges of the knee that favor might follow fawning."

They will cry should he leave because the day of favoritism for them will have passed perhaps. But the students went too far in their efforts to disprove the statements and they will now merit the criticism of their friends as well as the condemnation of their enemies. While a few may have made the blunder, all will suffer in the conservative mind as a consequence of it. There are too many colored men—Afro-Americans—Negroes in Washington, who do not take a position upon any question, until they are assured that some other Negro to whom they are opposed has taken the other side.

It may be that there are more than one Dr. John Gordon at Howard University. The fight should be made now to the finish and if racial inferiority of the Negro and rank in dualism versus higher education is to be made the corner-stone in the future, let the professors and students backed by the conservative American citizens of color in this country, moving along conservative and orderly lines raise the institution to the ground and leave to the Negro-haters the work of laying a new corner-stone and erecting a new

structure in which Dr. Gordon and his kind can preside and in which those kind of Negroes who favor his plans and purposes can be supreme in their ardent servility and in their sycophant surrender to every degrading command issued from the headquarters of the Negro-haters of this country.

Dr. Gordon has resigned. Who will take his place? Let us hope that we have not "swapped the devil for the witch" and that the Board of Trustees will act in keeping with the best interest of the institution and place a man at the head, who understands existing conditions and who will be able to start the institution upon the high road to success and keep it in the direction its founder started it.

Such a president, determined to look to the future, with no friends to reward or enemies to punish would bring about a satisfactory constitution of affairs and rescue the institution from a state of anarchy in to which this unthinking Dr. Gordon has plunged it.

TROOPS CRUSH MOSCOW REVOLT

Insurgents Making Last Stand Against Artillery Fire of Soldiers.

THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—Emperor Nicholas and Count Witte received a report from General Duboussoff, governor general of Moscow, saying that the revolt there had failed, that the military had the situation in hand, and that whatever defection may have existed among the troops had been overtaken by the attacks on them with bombs and revolvers to which they had been subjected from the windows and roofs of houses, which had so enraged them that they could hardly be restrained.

Although rebellion may flare up immediately elsewhere and although there is an indication of an upheaval at Odessa if the attempt at armed rebellion in Moscow should be crushed, the leaders of the "reds" will receive a blow from which they cannot quickly recover.

Last night the correspondent of the Associated Press at Moscow telephoned that there seems to be no longer any doubt that the revolution was collapsing. Insurgents still held the quadrangle in which the workmen's council was sitting as a revolutionary committee, but only because Governor General Duboussoff was not yet ready to give the coup de grace.

Firing continued intermittently throughout the day. At 5 o'clock automatic guns were being used in Strastnaya Square, but the insurgents were becoming exhausted after their four days' efforts, and the fighting was rapidly degenerating into guerrilla warfare.

The insurgents were defending themselves with revolvers and bombs as they were being hunted down from house to house.

The correspondent says that the entire population of the city is terror-stricken and that after dark the back streets present a weird and uncanny appearance. As he drove to the telephone station he saw only a few civilians who were slinking along by the side of the walls so as to avoid the police and cavalry patrols who fire without challenge. The windows of the houses are stuffed with mattresses and blankets and no lights are showing. The police carry rifles with bayonets fixed.

The correspondent predicts that the crushing of the rebellion is likely to be followed by the most horrible atrocities if the "Black Hundreds" are let loose. A telephone message just received by the Associated Press from Moscow says the fighting in the streets continued throughout the day. The soldiers are hemming in the main body of the insurgents in the quadrilateral near the Brest railroad station bounded by Tverskaya street and the Tverskaya, Radovaya and Bronnaya boulevards. In this quadrilateral the insurgents have fortified every inch of their lines with felled trees and telegraph poles and street cars, in front of which they have constructed a network of entanglements. Artillery is being used mercilessly.

The mortuaries of Moscow are filled with the dead, the hospitals are unable to find room for the wounded, and many private houses are filled with wounded persons.

The Bourse Gazette says it is reported that General Debioulin, prefect of police of St. Petersburg, has been informed by telephone that the number of dead or wounded at Moscow numbered 15,000, and that when questioned the general did not deny that such a report had been received.

Marched in Face of Death.

Preparations for the struggle were made on an elaborate scale. Twenty-five thousand troops were massed, machine guns were placed on the high walls of the Kremlin, and even in the steeples of churches. Massive towers of the Chinese wall bristled with weapons. Troops of Cossacks clattered through the streets.

Into this very hell of death marched a procession of revolutionists. They carried red flags and chanted those revolutionary dirges that one day will be the dirges of the Russian nation. When this mass of patriots had reached a point in Red Square where their position could be swept by the machine guns, and where Cossacks could charge advantageously, the mailed fist struck.

Thousands Slaughtered.

The ensuing slaughter was diabolical. Casualties numbered thousands. Dead men were piled high. Among these were many of the czar's fighting men, for the revolutionists had come prepared to resist attack.

This was Saturday. As night approached the populace grew more bold. The rattle drumming of machine guns and the booming of cannon were answered by the clatter of musketry. Shrapnel was responded to with bombs. Buildings were toppling into ruin on all sides. Among the first to be split asunder by a bomb was the headquarters of the police.

Sunday's dawn witnessed a renewal of the carnage. Barricades, consisting of boxes, barrels, and even furniture hauled from the mean little homes of the rebels, were thrown up at many strategic points. It was apparent from the outset that the fighting movements of the rebels were directed by some man trained in the ways of warfare.

At each repulse the ranks of the insurgents seemed to be re-packed as if by magic. Grim-faced, bare-headed men with brawny arms and bushy beards, sprang from cellars, dropped

ped from upper windows and seemed to rise out of the very ground. Every gap in the ranks of the rebels was filled in the twinkling of an eye.

One of the most desperate conflicts took place at the Triumphal Arch, scene of so many gorgeous spectacles of state in the glorious old days when Moscow was the seat of monarchy.

Students Mowed Down.

Here the soldiers, backed by machine guns perched in steeples of nearby cathedrals, charged upon a body of student militia. These young fellows were well armed and perfectly trained, so that it was not surprising that after a ferocious encounter they were able to drive back the czar's butchers. But their victory was won at awful cost as the ranks of the students were well nigh depleted.

Cossacks meanwhile were resorting to the customary tactics in endeavoring to keep the streets clear. They used their knouts freely, respecting neither age nor sex. Old men were beaten to insensibility and women lashed to the earth. Children were dragged about by their hair.

The other side was not to be outdone, however, in the excess to which cruelties might be carried. Repeatedly they stripped Jewish women and forced them to march through the streets, pelting them with stones and offering every describable insult.

MITCHELL TO THE OPERATORS

Communicates With Them Regarding Demands of Mine Workers.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—The Press says: "President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers' Union, has communicated with the presidents of the anthracite coal producing companies in regard to the demands the miners will make for the continuance of work in the hard coal fields."

"It is understood the letter is in regard to holding a conference between the committee representing the United Mine Workers and the operators. As to what the operators will do, it has not definitely been decided upon."

"Besides asking for an eight-hour day, there are also to be presented other demands. The most important, and one that if adopted will mean the complete recognition of the union, is the request that an entire new conciliation board be formed, one that will always be in session and will go from place to place to settle disputes."

"This request will meet with considerable opposition from the operators. The proposed new board is to be composed of three members representing the miners and the same number representing the operators, and a seventh member, to be chosen by the other six."

BORN FOUR MONTHS APART

Young Mother Gave Birth to Daughter 116 Days After Birth of Son.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Alfred Witte, of 315 Central avenue, this city, is the mother of a three-days-old daughter which she insists was born 116 days, or less than four months, after she had given birth to a son. Her story is partially vouched for by Dr. George T. Mooster, a reputable physician, who attended her. Both parents are a few months over 20 years of age. Dr. Mooster said that he believed the woman's story.

"The child is normal," he said, "and I saw the other child, who is apparently not more than four months old, showing as yet no sign of a tooth. Mrs. Witte told me that no physician attended the other birth, though one was sent for, and her only attendant was a woman with whom she boarded, but whose present address she does not know. Mrs. Witte's mother and family vouch for the truth of her story, and share in the surprise occasioned by the phenomenon."

SANGBAGGED AND ROBBED

Diamond Merchant Found Unconscious in Philadelphia Part of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—William Heeren, a diamond merchant of 612 South avenue, Plainfield, N. J., was found unconscious at 17th and Walnut streets, in the heart of the fashionable section of the city. He was immediately taken to the Polytechnic hospital, where the doctors announced that he had a concussion of the brain. An abrasion was found on his head. After the doctors had worked on him for an hour he revived sufficiently to tell them who he was. He said that he went into a saloon, purchased a drink and left the place. A few minutes later he said he became bewildered, after which he remembered nothing. An examination of his clothes showed that all his valuables were missing, including \$500 worth of diamonds which he had in a small case in an inside pocket of his coat. The police believe that he was given knock-out drops and that he was followed by a footpad and sangbagg. Heeren is still in a serious condition.

Druggist's Mistake Kills Girl.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 26.—Coroner Mix handed down a finding in the case of Minnie Evelyn Killingsbeck, of Ansonia, who died on Saturday under circumstances that looked suspicious. He said that the girl's death was due to the mistake of her sweetheart, Frank Tucker, a drug clerk, who sent a pill box labeled "headache tablets"

to her, which really contained bichloride of mercury tablets. When Miss Killingsbeck sent for headache medicine the box containing the poisonous pills was sent to her, and she took one of the pills, which caused her death in a few hours.

Two Men Blown to Atoms. Bluefield, W. Va., Dec. 27.—John K. Greested and Kenton W. Atwell were blown to atoms at Cedar Bluff by the explosion of 12 cans of dynamite they were attempting to thaw.

A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

Thursday, December 21. George H. Conley, superintendent of schools of Boston, died suddenly of heart disease, aged 52 years.

Edward Bastian, a farmer, was struck by an express train at Middletown, Del., and fatally injured. Will Carter, a negro, was hanged at Kenansville, N. C., for a criminal assault upon a 6-year-old white girl.

A gas explosion at Decatur, Ill., injured permanently blind and seriously injured three other men.

While playing on the Reading railway tracks, Clyde Young, 11 years old, of Philadelphia, fell under a train and had both legs cut off.

Friday, December 22. The safe in the Corinth Deposit Bank, at Corinth, Ky., was robbed of \$2500.

Both branches of congress have adjourned until January 4 for the Christmas holidays.

Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock is confined to his Washington home with a severe cold.

A leak in a kitchen gas stove in a New York grocery store caused the death of two men and so overcome a woman that she will die.

It is said in Washington that Lloyd Griscom will not return to Japan as the American minister, but will be appointed ambassador to Brazil.

All the Italians and foreigners employed as gatemen at crossings of the Pennsylvania railroad west of Pittsburg will be replaced by Americans.

Saturday, December 23. Three nuns were painfully burned in a fire at St. Benedict's Academy, Erie, Pa.

The furniture factory of the Warren Woodworking company, at Belvidere, N. J., was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$60,000.

Judge O'Gorman, of the New York supreme court, decided that a South Dakota divorce decree confers no protection in New York.

W. H. Moorehead, a guard in the Ohio penitentiary at Columbus, O., was fatally wounded in a fight between five guards and a convict.

John C. New, former consul general to London, and John C. Wright, were acquitted at Noblesville, Ind., of fraud in the sale of stock involving \$395,000 in the First National Bank of Indianapolis.

Tuesday, December 26.

Mrs. S. B. Dibble, first president of the National Christian Temperance Union, died at her home at Grass Valley, Cal.

John McCall, J. H. Wells and James Bester were suffocated in a lodging house at New Orleans by blowing out the gas.

Irvin Baxter, United States district attorney for Nebraska, has been removed by President Roosevelt for malfeasance in office.

While returning from work, Charles Echoff, of Coatesville, Pa., was run down by a locomotive and had a leg cut off and his skull fractured.

Seven masked men held up three armed watchmen and a dispatcher in the Toledo (O.) Traction company's car barn and escaped with over \$1000.

Wednesday, December 27.

Fire gutted the Exchange Hotel, of Uniontown, Pa., entailing a loss of \$100,000.

Mrs. D. Stuart Null, of Wellsboro, Pa., was killed and her husband and Miss Emma Mathers badly injured in a runaway accident.

After playing Santa Claus for neighbors, George Reed, of near Coatesville, O., set fire to the long cotton whiskers and was fatally burned.

Louis N. Megargee, editor and publisher of "See and Hear," and a well-known journalist, died at his home in Philadelphia, aged 50 years.

In a fit of jealousy, Ashby Willis, colored, of Wheeling, W. Va., crushed the skull of his white wife with an axe and then cut his own throat.

Miss Roosevelt Names Wedding Day.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Miss Alice Roosevelt announced to a few personal friends, including one of her prospective bridesmaids, the date of her wedding, which has finally been fixed for Saturday, February 17. The hour is yet to be determined. Several dates were under consideration. The 22d was the favorite, but it was found that other plans had been made for that day at the White House.

Epidemic of Meningitis Among Horses

New York, Dec. 27.—Afflicted with spinal meningitis, more than a score of horses dropped in the streets of Williamsburg, and at least half of them succumbed to the disease before a veterinary could reach them. Every veterinary surgeon in Williamsburg was called into service, and they were busy from before daylight until late at night trying to check the spread of the disease. One veterinary had been called to attend 15 cases, nine of which were fatal. All the animal hospitals are crowded with horses which have only a slight chance to recover from the disease.

Luke Wright Won't Resign.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 26.—Luke E. Wright, governor general of the Philippines, arrived here to spend the holidays at his home. Regarding reports that he would resign his office and return to Memphis, he said nothing further than that he had heard the rumors, but was unaware of the source from which they came.

WILD RIDE WITH INSANE FATHER

Five Children Driven About in Wagon For Six Days.

ALL SUFFERED TERRIBLY

Clinton, Conn., Dec. 27.—Taken suddenly with a fit of insanity while recovering from the measles, Hayden Watrous, a middle-aged man living in Mystic, gathered his five small children together and, putting them on a wild ride, started six days ago on a box wagon about the state, begging food from house to house and not allowing the children to leave the wagon at any time. The father and children slept on the wagon every night, and as the days passed the sufferings of the little ones increased, so that when they were overtaken near here by Watrous' brother the youngest of the lot, a 2-year-old boy, was nearly dead.

The insane man's brother started in pursuit of Watrous a day or two after Watrous left home and found traces of him in several towns throughout the state, but just as he seemed to be in a position where he could overtake him the trail was lost, and the insane man was not caught until Tuesday night. When he saw his brother he started to fight, and it was only after a desperate struggle that Watrous was subdued. He was bound with ropes, put in a carriage and brought to the station here and later taken to his home, his brother going with him.

The children were suffering terribly from the lack of food and clothing, and some of them are said to be in a critical condition.

DEFENDED HIS MOTHER

Father Attempted to Strike Her When Son Interfered.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—Defending his mother against her quarrelsome husband, Joseph Pollock, aged 22, of 128 West Cumberland street, struck his father in the face, which resulted in his death. William Pollock, the husband, who had been drinking, was called to Christmas dinner by his wife. He became angry because his sleep had been disturbed, and was in the act of striking his wife when the son stopped the blow. This interference enraged the husband, who struck the son and the latter retaliated by hitting his father. The elder Pollock fell backward and sustained a fracture of the skull by his head striking the kitchen stove. He died on the way to a hospital. The son has been arrested, charged with murder, and his mother is held as a witness. Another son, who is a lay preacher, was absent from home conducting a Christmas entertainment.

A DOUBLE LYNCHING

Helpless Prisoners Shot to Death at Barnwell S. C.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 27.—News of a double lynching at Barnwell has been received here. Sheriff Creech has wired Governor Heyward that the affair was a brutal murder; that the helpless prisoners were butchered in open daylight, and that officers were guilty of dereliction of duty. H. S. Craddock, a well-known white merchant, was killed by Frank and John Deloache, negroes, who were arrested by the constable and placed in a lockup. The men were taken out and shot to death with guns and pistols. The news of the lynching was suppressed. Sheriff Creech is preparing to make arrests, and Governor Heyward announces he will sustain the sheriff.

TEAM RAN INTO PENNSY FLYER

Two Killed and One Severely Injured at Delphos, O.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 26.—A horse attached to a buggy ran into the Pennsylvania 15-hour "flyer" at Delphos, O., and Henry Henhorst and his daughter Rose were instantly killed, and Mrs. Barney Wahomok, also a daughter of Mr. Henhorst, was severely injured. The rig struck the front end of the baggage car, immediately behind the engine, and the accident was not known by the trainmen until the car inspectors in this city discovered a tummy curtain fastened in the door of the car, and an inquiry down the line was made.

Killed While Decorating Tree.

Washington, Pa., Dec. 26.—Just as she was hanging a doll for her little sister on a Christmas tree at her home in Hazel Kirk, Mary, the 9-year-old daughter of James Kennedy, received a bullet in the head from a revolver fired through the door from outside. She died from the effects of the wound. One report is that a man was seen to deliberately fire through the door, but the general belief is that during a quarrel in the street a shot intended